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The Knothole

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### Knothole November 11, 1992 Vol 45 No 9

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

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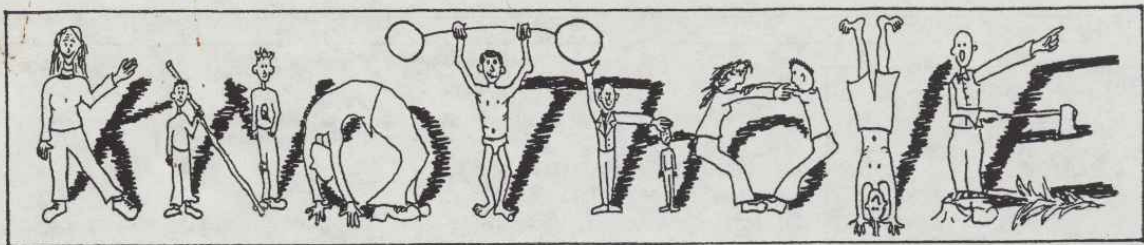
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## Teaching Assistants to Vote on Union Referendum

by Joseph Cornell, president of GSA

Graduate Students! If you are one of the 80 or so TA's (teaching assistants) and GA's (graduate assistants) employed by ESF, soon you will receive a ballot from the Public Employees Relations Board concerning the upcoming GSEU/CWA union referendum. If this is the first you have heard of this referendum, do not be surprised. This referendum will determine whether or not SUNY TA's and GA's will form a collective bargaining unit to be called the "Graduate Student Employee Union" or GSEU. This referendum is the outcome of several year's worth of legal maneuvering on the part of SUNY TA's to obtain the right to collective bargaining. The story, which has not received much publicity on this campus, is as follows: At some point in the recent past, teaching assistants at other SUNY institutions began to wonder what they could do to improve their bargaining position regarding health benefits, unemployment insurance, guaranteed salaries, and other issues. These TA's felt that since they worked for the State they should be treated like any other group of State employees. The SUNY system however disagreed saying "No, TA's and GA's are not really employees because they are primarily students, and students are not covered under the same conditions of employment." These students in turn sought a ruling from the PERB (Public Employee Relations Board) of the State of New York. The PERB, in a series of rulings, declared all SUNY TA's and GA's are in fact, State employees, and therefore entitled to all general benefits of State employment including the right to union representation. This ruling affects only TA's (teaching assistants) and GA's (graduate assistants), and not RA's (research assistants). RA's cannot be considered State employees because they are employed by the Research Foundation and not by the State. This brings us to the present. A referendum is being held to determine whether or not TA's and GA's want to be represented by a union. More specifically, do SUNY TA's and GA's want to be represented by the Communications Workers of America (CWA). The second pay period of

October was used for the purpose of determining which graduate students were TA's or GA's and eligible to vote and to determine how to contact each student. This ballot will be sent out to every SUNY TA and GA on November 23rd. This ballot asks a single question: Do you want to belong to a union? If you have not heard anything about this, don't feel like you've been hiding your head under a rock, because almost no one knows. This is because of instructions from the office of the Governor and because of SUNY's interpretation of standing labor law. In order to insure a fair election, the administration is constrained about what they can and cannot say about the referendum. SUNY Central has made it very clear to the SUNY campuses that they are not to talk about the GSEU/CWA referendum, that they are not to allow GSEU/CWA representatives to post information regarding the GSEU/CWA referendum on campuses where they are not students, and that auxiliary groups, such as the GSA, are not to appropriate funds for union organizing. These restrictions however, are not part of some conspiracy. It just seems that way. I think this is so for two reasons. Students usually look to the administration for information, but in this instance the administration has been told by the State to remain neutral and relatively silent. Even so however, it still seems reminiscent of the gag rule forbidding doctors in federally funded family planning clinics to include information about abortion. This kind of situation, whether imposed on SUNY by the State or by State Law, seems inconsistent with the traditionally open intellectual atmosphere cultivated by American universities. As a private individual however, and as the president of the GSA, I am free to encourage any and all persons interested in this issue to talk with each other, to meet and discuss, and to seek more information than I could provide here. Copies of the GSEU Constitution and the CWA Affiliation Proposal have been put on reserve in Moon library. Check them out.



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The *Knothole* is the student publication of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. It is published every Wednesday during the school year.

**The deadline for submitting pieces for publication is**

**Thursday, 4:00 pm, of the week before they are to appear. (On disk, The deadline is Friday, 12 noon.)** Letters to the Editor will not be printed unless they are signed. Articles must also contain the writer's name (names will be withheld upon request). The opinions expressed are those of the writer only and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the paper's staff or anyone else affiliated with the College. We strongly encourage any counterviews, articles, notices, suggestions, and new staff members. The *Knothole* staff meets in Room 22 in the basement of Bray, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm. Phone: 470-6892.

# LETTERS

## Something Called Integrity

Integrity, according to Webster's, is "An uncompromising adherence to a code of moral, artistic, or other values : utter sincerity, honesty, and candor." Integrity is not something tangible. One cannot physically see, touch, or taste it, but it can be seen in the actions or statements of people. Integrity is something that you look for in choosing a friend.

I say this because I have seen a massive lack of integrity on this campus of late. I have seen "group efforts" on quizzes and exams, I have seen very selfish people abuse the reserve desk at the library, and the one that takes the cake, is the recent theft of an exam. I really can't believe this display of insincerity and dishonesty. To those of you that thought (or didn't think, it seems) that you were more important than the rest of us in the class in question, did you really think that you would get away with it?? This isn't seventh grade anymore. This is real stuff. Are you that willing to chance being caught and tossed out of school instead of studying for one more night?? For your information, rules are NOT made to be broken, and, in case you haven't read your student handbook, cheating is against the rules.

The majority of students here at ESF are hard-working, goal-oriented, class-going, note-taking, exam-studying people that are here to learn. There is no justifiable reason for a small group of selfish individuals to screw it up for the rest of us. What I'm trying to say, is that you folks have hit zero on the integrity scale, and in doing so, you have brought down the integrity of those that are around you, also. So in the future, when I'm around you, please don't be such jerks, I really would appreciate it.

Steve Hilburger

## To the Editor

Murdock's article of October 28, continued the ESF tradition of statistics bashing. Ironically, his comments (just as the comments of his predecessors) illustrate the need for increased statistical analysis!

The three graphs he offered are indeed difficult to interpret for the statistically illiterate. The first two graphs show that the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration at Mauna Loa is undeniable. The third graph shows that the magnitude of the increase is a small percentage of the total. The graphs use the same data to show different (albeit consistent) information. The graphs are a tool to develop important questions such as: 1) Is a small percentage increase in CO<sub>2</sub> cause for concern? 2) Is a trend cause for concern?

Murdock comments that researchers use the same data to make a variety of conclusions. This phenomena indeed happens, which is exactly why we need to know more about statistics! Imagine trying to determine which conclusions are the most appropriate without using numbers or statistics. If researcher X claims that the ozone hole is caused by human activity, then how (in the absence of data) would researcher Y dispute the claim? For those who have even rudimentary statistical literacy, quantitative analysis makes it easier to understand the world because quantitative analysis forces us to analyze the links between our observations and our conclusions. In the absence of quantitative analysis, humans would have less information on which to base a decision.

Sincerely,  
Gil Pontius



**To the Editor:**

I'd like to respond to Darryl Guy Murdock's theory that humans are not affecting the atmosphere:

Ozone loss occurs when it reacts with chlorine atoms. Eighty percent of the chlorine in the stratosphere is man-made, mostly from CFC's. The steady increase in chlorine levels has caused a 2 % decrease in mean annual ozone globally and progressively larger ozone holes since 1970.

Ice core analysis has shown that the concentration of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> has not been as high as current levels in at least 160,000 years. Carbon dioxide is known to prevent reflected solar radiation from escaping the Earth's atmosphere. As CO<sub>2</sub> continues to accumulate in our atmosphere we would expect the Earth's temperature to rise, which is exactly what is happening. The past ten years have been the hottest on record.

To know the disastrous effects of CO<sub>2</sub> and CFC's produced by industry and to deny that their continued release is harmful, is wrong.

James Uhlig  
Global Changeology

**To Mike Huneke**

Your gracious letter to the Knothole thanking everyone for their help at Parent/Family Weekend had only one flaw: it left out the key player of the entire event, the Sine Qua Non, the Indispensable Dynamo, namely yourself.

You did a superb job of planning and executing an important but complicated event. Many, many thanks for your long hours and your good efforts.

While we have been short-handed in Student Affairs this year, students like yourself have been unbelievably helpful. Opening Week/Orientation, Parent/Family Weekend, the upcoming December Soiree, TG's and club activities have all borne the mark of effective "student power," in the best sense of the word. Many thanks to all of you.

Jim Heffernan



# Thank God It's Friday

November 13th

Relax and hang out with your friends

**Hosted by the Knothole and the Recycling  
Club**

**Please bring your own mug or plastic cup**

## Into the Mystic

There is something VERY important happening as you read this. The Student Government Association of Syracuse University is holding elections. We, as ESF students are encouraged to vote; after all, we do pay a fractional student fee to S.U..

If you find yourself not caring too much about this yet, think again. Our very own ESF-SU Senator, Michelle Kalnitz had to **fight** to get a voting table over here on the ESF campus at the last SU student government meeting. The table will be in Marshall Foyer and I hope that we investigate the candidates as much as possible...and then exercise our right to vote. Elections started on Monday, but will be continued through Wednesday.

As President of OUR student government, I try to remain as unbiased as possible in all situations. However, I feel I must let you know about one of the candidates for President in particular. His name is Jeremy Marin, and he is the only candidate who actually gives a damn about ESF. He has taken the time to come to our student government meeting this past Monday to speak with us so that we can get a better idea of what he is all about. Again, he seems to be the only candidate concerned with acknowledging and working with ESF. If he does get elected, there could be a communication link between ESF and SU like never before. This could result in many extremely positive situations that could definitely improve campus life for ESF and SU students alike.

Once again, I encourage everyone to explore ALL of the candidates and make your choice. However, remember Jeremy Marin came to **our** campus. He recognizes that we are part of the SU community as well as they are part of ours...and he would like to make a difference for us all. Your vote is so extremely vital in this election - please don't set this aside. This election affects us all...

Now, I would like to take the time to remind everyone that this Wed. and Thurs. at 6:30 is our **ANNUAL ON-CAMPUS COLLEGE BOWL**. Wednesday's competition will be held in Bray 324 and Thursday's will be in the Moon Conference Room. This event is sponsored by our wonderful Honor Society - Alpha Xi Sigma. For those who are competing...GOOD LUCK!!!

This whole event is a great time for everyone - competitors and audience alike (if you have the time, it is definitely something to not be missed!). Hopefully we will see you there!

Until next week...

Take Care and Remember to Smile,  
Ron Casey -((vote) Pres. U.S.A.

---

Then, with the falling of the dusk,  
The scent of Mignonette and Musk.  
Will all the air enshroud,  
And the new moon will slip its husk,  
of sailing silver cloud.

-Clinton Scollard

## News from SAF

by Jenny Kupp

Last week was a busy one for us. First, we took a trip to Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper Mill on Halloween, where Mike Virga (a forestry service manager) took us on a tour of some of their forest lands. He spoke on a wide range of topics, including: silviculture, forest economics, policy, logging operations (we got to see a lot of equipment) tree pests, and GIS. While it was a bit cold, the trip was extremely informative and we had a great day. Thanks to Mr. Virga, and also to Michelle for making the awesome cookies!

On November 3, Michael Greason (the New York State SAF Chair) presented Dr. Charles Larson (former ESF professor) with the Golden Membership Award, which recognizes 50 years of membership in SAF. Dr. Larson spoke about his early days in forestry and how times have changed. he doesn't think people today feel the same responsibility and commitment to the professional society as he did, and still does.

Also on November 3, we held elections for the spring semester, as our chair, Mike Huneke, is graduating, and three council members will vacate their positions. Congratulations to all the winners!\* Our spring 1993 Executive Council is as follows:

Chair - \*Jenny Kupp  
Vice-Chair - Kenton Zehr  
Secretary - \*Michele Montague  
Treasurer - Jim Sessions  
Council Members - Kelly Porter  
                          \*Randy Adkins  
                          \*Jim Avallone  
                          \*Matt Penrod

Remember, SAF meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 in 212 Marshall!

Oh, yes, I forgot to mention some very important National SAF news: The Land Ethic Canon was passed.

And may at last my weary age  
find out the peaceful hermitage,  
The hairy gown and mossy cell,  
where I may sit and rightly spell  
of every star that Heaven doth show,  
And every herb that sips the dew  
Till old experience do attain  
To something like prophetic strain.

Il Penseroso  
John Milton



# Robin Hood Oak Awards

*If you step behind Bray Hall you will notice a dignified and proud oak tree. This graceful tree known as the "Robin Hood Oak", germinated from an acorn which came from a 1000 year old English oak found in the heart of Sherwood Forest. Legend has it that this major oak housed Robin Hood and his merry men, heroes of the 14th century ballad. It's with this proud heritage that the Robin Hood Oak Award finds its name.*

*For 21 years, the Robin Hood Oak Award has been given by an ESF student committee to the class's graduating seniors and graduate students who have made outstanding contributions to the college and public community. The award recognizes the fine character of these individuals and the effort they have made to improve the quality of ESF campus and community life.*

*Once again, the time has come to nominate students graduating this December for this prestigious award. Nomination forms are available in 110 Bray, Moon Library foyer, and this week's Knothole. Please return all nomination forms to 110 Bray by NOON, Tuesday November 24. These awards will be presented to the recipients at the annual December Soiree on Friday December 11.*

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## Robin Hood Oak Award Nomination Form

The following are a list of qualifications that must be met by the students being nominated for this award.

- 1) The nominated student must be a senior or a graduate student graduating in December 1992.
- 2) The nominee's cumulative average must be 2.5 or better.
- 3) The nominee must have taken an active role in leadership and service at ESF. The person nominating the student (this includes a student nominating himself) has the responsibility to provide this information about the nominee.
- 4) Community service (i.e. scouting, church groups, Red Cross, Big Brother/Sister, etc.) should also be considered when nominating the student.
- 5) Nominees may include students who have actively participated in years previous to the 1992-93 academic year.

NOTE: IT IS NOT NECESSARY for the nominee to hold or have held office of any type, and holding an office does not automatically entitle a student to an award!

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY AND RETURN TO 110 BRAY BY NOON ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24.

Name of Nominee:

Local Address:

This nominee is a (circle one): **December 1992 Graduate** **Finishing Grad Student**

How are you related to the nominee?

If more information is needed...

Your name:

Your Address:

What contributions to the campus has this individual made? Describe in as much detail as possible:

What contributions to the local community has this individual made?

What else should the awards committee be aware of when considering this nominee?

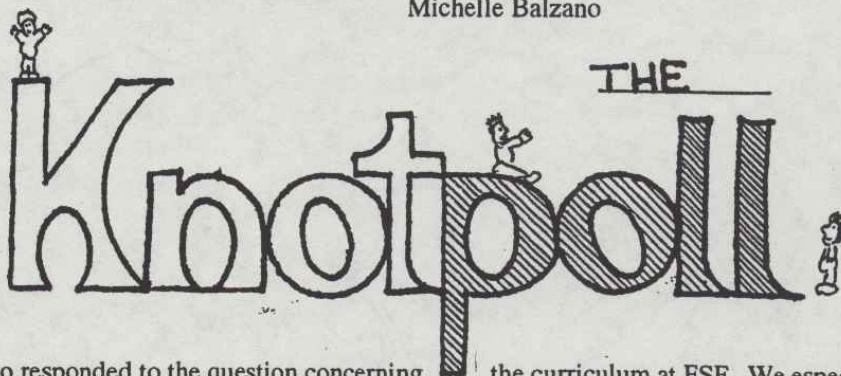
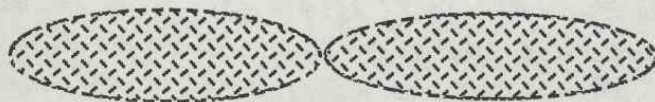
Thank you for your time in nominating this individual.



## GSA NEWS

by Joseph D. Cornell

Hello from the GSA! The Graduate Student Association recently hosted speaker Joann Andrews, President of PRO-NATURA@Yucatan. Joann spoke on the topic of "Making Conservation Work in Mexico". Her talk was delightful and quite an optimistic counterpoint to Dr. Norman Myer's recent lecture! Lots of other stuff has been happening too. The GSA sponsored its first Teaching Assistant workshop with Dean Frey and Chuck Spuches this past October. Approximately 20 students shared ideas about the needs of ESF assistants. Additional workshops are being planned. The GSA is now planning its spring conference "Shifting Paradigms in Science and the Environment II". We need people to help us organize and assist. Anyone interested in contributing is encouraged to look for signs announcing the next meeting. Speaking of meetings, the next GSA meeting will be held November 10th at 12:30 in 324 Bray. We will have a guest from the GSEU/CWA lobby who will describe the up-coming GSEU/CWA referendum concerning SUNY TA's and GA's. Should be interesting. The GSA has also put copies of the GSEU constitution and CWA Affiliation papers on reserve in Moon library. Along with those papers are copies of the recent campus report concerning the environment for women at ESF. I have read this report and it is startling. Go to the library and check this stuff out! Right on.



Thank you to all who responded to the question concerning the curriculum at ESF. We especially appreciate your comments and suggestions. All of the respondents argued that the curriculum does not meet the needs of practicing environmental professionals. One student said the curriculum "doesn't even come close." Many other students agreed that the courses offered need more "hands on" and "real world" assignments. Please keep your comments and suggestions coming. We look forward to hearing a variety of responses!

## Morning Munch

Thanks a bunch to Sarah, Jen, Chris, Mike, Mark, Tom, and Tammy for a job well done!! Good thing we found out where the fuse box was, thanks Ed!! Also special thanks to Dunkin Donuts..time to make the doughnuts.

Andrea Iosue  
USA Social Chair

## Gamma Delta Theta

First of all we would like to congratulate our sister, Jodi Hayman, for being selected as one of this year's Class Marshalls. Secondly, we would like everyone to help us fight hunger again by donating a few canned goods to our Thanksgiving Food Drive. Flyers will be posted around campus and various drop points will be available. Please help. The sisters are getting ready for Thanksgiving dinner with Kappa Phi. I get to sit at the BIG table this year with my boyfriend! The sisters are also organizing for Environmental Awareness Week November 16th-20th. We are having a slumber at the house-No accidents Cutte--I mean Lobster, which will most likely be a total blast!! The sweatshirt I wore to the haunted house never recovered from the abuse it received and my bruises are starting to disappear from the repeated run-ins with the walls...or maybe I should call the shove-ins thanks to a few truly terrified sisters! I kept trying to tell Lisa it was fake. A special thanks to our pledge Colleen and her boyfriend. We separated them unintentionally and made him go first. By the way, who were those two girls in our group?

Michelle Balzano

Should a national environmental agenda be one of President-elect Bill Clinton's first priority?

YES

NO

COMMENTS:



# Reindeer, in November?!?!

We're here to inform you about a very important event:

## **The December Soiree**

Tickets will be on sale for a limited time only, Nov. 16-27 and Dec. 1-4

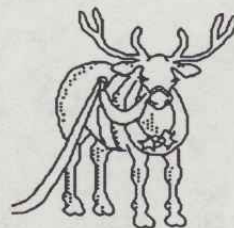
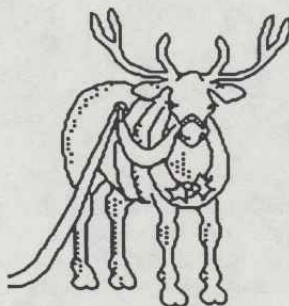
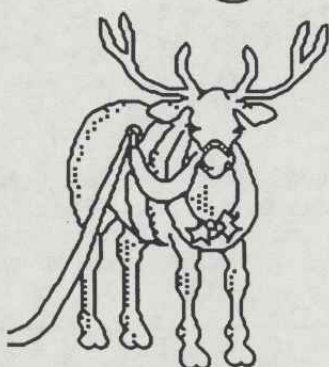
This spectacular event will be held at the new

**Onondaga County Convention Center**

The date is: **Friday, December 11.** So don't make any plans!

The December Soiree is the biggest social event of the semester.  
The event is held in honor of the December graduates.

All are welcome...Students, Parents, Faculty, Staff, Guests, and Alumni.



Men are asked to wear a shirt and tie/suit and women a dress or shirt and blouse. Black tie is optional!

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY'S  
JIM MORRIS  
COOL ENVIRO T-SHIRT SALE

THURS. 19 & FRI. 20 NOV.  
10:00-3:00 IN MARSHALL  
THEY'RE CHEAP, THEY'RE ENVIRO!!!

ALSO ON SALE  
FUNKY *WILDLIFE* POSTERS

The *Wildlife* Society

Speaker Series Presents

Dr. Payne

to speak on

**The Endangered Species Act**

laws, funding, and congressional letter writing  
to be highlighted

11 Nov. 5:30pm Marshall 319



**Females:** Tired of dorm life? Move in to a beautiful, fully furnished house, located close to campus.

home  
cooked  
meals  
available



fun and easy going  
housemates

Non-smokers are preferred. For more information call the number below anytime! #423-8674

Need a break from that same old routine?

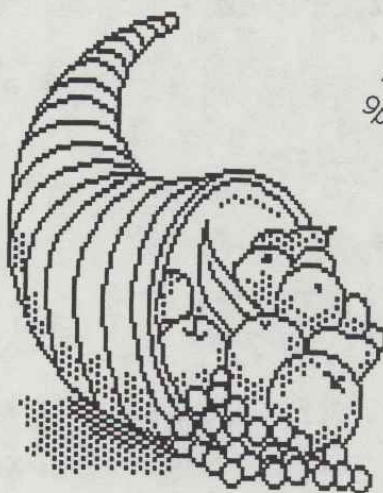
Join your friends at the newest rage: the **GOBBLE HOBBLE**  
on Friday, November 20

FREE

food

music

prizes



TWISTER

Nirkin Lounge  
9pm-12am

party

celebrate

\*\*\*your student activity fee at work for you!\*\*\*

COED ... GIANT TWISTER

NOV. 20

NIFKIN 9-12AM

*BRING YOUR TEAM TO THE GOBBLE HOBBLE*

*PRIZES FOR THE WINNING TEAM*



# Calendar of Events

## November 11, Wednesday

Association for Women in Science (AWIS) meeting. Travel Grant winner presentations. 5:30 pm in Nifkin Lounge, Marshall Hall. All are welcome!!!

AFS meeting in Illick 151 at 5:30 pm.

The Wildlife Society meeting. Dr. Payne to speak on reauthorization of The Endangered Species Act. 5:30 pm in Marshall 319.

Alph XI Sigma host the Collge Bowl in Bray 324 at 6:30 pm

## November 12, Thursday

College Bowl in Moon Coference Room at 6:30 pm

## November 13, Friday

TGIF in Nifkin Lounge at 4:30 pm. **Bring your mug**

## November 16, Monday

Gamma Delta Theta Can Food Drive - November 16th - 20th.

## Otter pups' play-song - For Irene

We're a couple of young otter pups  
an' this old Cranberry Flow  
of the Oswegatchie River  
It's our home-sweet happy habitat  
We dive under Oswegatchie's blackwater to hunt  
then we surface to munch

But we never go under without  
a last happy tail splash --  
We always come up  
with a great big spl-l-l-l-l-utter'n chuckle  
or the merriest tinkle-jingle-jangle  
of frosty mornin' skim ice

We'll pretend that we're otter  
sea monsters-O this tinkle'n stuff  
makes pop'n our little sea monster heads up  
such jingle-bells fun--such tinkle'n-jingle'n  
jangle'n jingle-bells fun--that we can't  
stay under long enough to hunt  
Momma--you know that us  
sea monster pups--  
we just can't stay under  
long enough to hunt

Momma--you know  
that play'n sea monster  
makes otter pups awfully hungry  
And Momma we promise  
you won't have to hunt for our supper  
No--you won't have to hunt for our lunch  
'cause by the time that the breakfast of  
frogs that you've caught us is gone--  
All of our jingle-bells skim ice  
will have turned into mushy old  
Oswegatchie slush

With nothin' to draw  
a young otter's attention  
from the serious business  
of the hunt--Once  
again we'll dive down  
to Oswegatchie's muddy  
bottom and surface with somethin'  
crunchy to munch--

But we'll never go under  
without a last happy tail splash  
And we'll always come up with a  
great  
big spl-l-l-l-l-utter'n chuckle--  
And come tomorrow mornin'  
each time we come up--

We will play the triangle  
and ring the jingle-jangle  
of frosty mornin'  
skim ice

Oswegatchie's Cranberry Flow  
Fall 1992  
-Dave Hassig

Rags make paper,  
paper makes money,  
money makes banks,  
banks make loans,  
loans make beggars,  
beggars make....  
rags.

Reuben

Large house with...  
Home Cooked Meals! Cleaning Service! Large Screen  
Color TV!  
Quiet Area to Study! Close to Campus!  
is looking for female housemates.  
Call 423-8674 for more information.